Bedroom Peeking Sharpens FBI Files

By Jack Anderson

The secret FBI files show that G-men spend an inordinate amount of time peeking into American bedrooms.

Their preoccupation with sex is evident—in spite of the fact that, taken together, the 8,500 Special Agents make up what is unquestionably one of the greatest collection of prudes in the country.

The late redeubtable J. Edgar Hoover was himself a man of Victorian virtues who went so far as to ban pantsuits for his female employees. Regularly, he purged agents caught carousing with paramours.

A careful review of the hundreds of FBI documents in our possession has failed to turn up a single instance wherein an agent used unseemly language. Indeed they strain themselves to describe delicate situations.

The army of agents who follow Jane Fonda around, for example, often have difficulty conveying her language. One memo, stamped "Secret—No Foreign Dissemination," contains a review of her anti-military roadshow which wrote the investgator, "consisted of songs such as 'Kiss My A—'."

Special Agent James E. Farmer of the San Antonio field office had a similar problem composing a memo on Madalyn Murray O'Hair, the celebrated atheist who successfully sued to ban prayer from public schools.

Because of a pending extradition from Hawaii to Maryland, Mrs. O'Hair was having trouble obtaining a passport, and she wrote a nasty letter to the State Department. Reported Agent Farmer:

Naughty Word

"On Feb. 2, 1962, Madalyn Murray, in a letter to the Passport Division, indicated she was going to federal court about this matter and stated, 'I do not care to — around with you further.' The above omitted word is four-letter word which has a sexual connotation and was omitted because of this."

For all of their priggishness, however, the federal sleuths are incorrigible gossips about sex. Their memos contain the most intimate details about the people they spy on.

The Los Angeles office for example, has an avid curiosity about the sex aberration of movie stars.

"During 1965," begins a summary of one famous actor's file, "a confidential informant reported that several years ago while he was in New York he had an 'affair with movie star ——. The informant states that from personal knowledge he knew that (the actor) was a homosexual."

The G-men have also peeped into the bedroom of a black, female vocalist who is known for her sensuous singing style.

"In October, 1966," wrote an agent, "information was received from a reliable source that (a prominent woman) was suing her husband, principal owner of (a Las Vegas hotel), for divorce as a result of Mrs. —— catching her husband in bed with the singer)."

The bureau's unusual interest in the sexual habits of the famous has by no means been confined to the entertainment world. The dossier on a well known black writer contains the report, stamped "Secret," that a teacher "advised during the summer of 1966" the author had rented an apartment but "was evicted by the landlord for having homosexual parties."

Athlete's Indiscretion

The affairs of a prominent athlete are also catalogued in titillating detail:

"(The athlete) has been observed intoxicated on several occasions and also reportedly had an affair with an airline stewardess who became pregnant as a result of this association. It is alleged that an abortion was arranged for this girl by the wife of ——, the operator of a restaurant-bar in New York. It is understood that the abortion had to be postponed due to the arrest of ——'s wife on charges stemming from an abortion ring."

The FBI also maintains peepholes into the bedrooms of black leaders. Agents triumphantly discovered an "illicit affair" involving one prominent black. Confides the report:

The source related an incident which occurred some time ago in a New York City hotel, where (the black leader) was intoxicated at a small gathering. (He) threatened to leap from the 13th-floor window of the hotel if this woman would not say she loved him."

The most unlikely and unproved sex stories turn up in the FBI files. States a report on a black religious leader:

"A confidential source on May 16, 1958, advised he had learned that the reverend) . . . recently mentioned . . . that some years ago a newspaper in South Carolina had printed a story about him. This story, which he said was not true, alleged he had illicit relations with an underage girl. (The revend) said he understood this matter had been referred to recently in Congress.

"Consequently, he said he was wondering how he should comment regarding this story . . . The consensus of opinion (among his advisers) was that he should adopt the position that this story was old, not true, and he had no desire to dignify it by discussing the matter."

It turned out that the story had been inserted in the Congressional Record by rootin' tootin' Rep. John Rarick, (D-La.), one of the most irresponsible members of Congress.

Nonetheless, the FBI searched the Record for Rarick's scurrilous speech, which was faithfully reproduced in the black leader's file.

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